

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 3, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 3, 2004**. Dry weather across the state has allowed cotton harvesting to continue. Sorghum harvesting has essentially been completed with corn harvesting expected to end this week. Cool season crop planting continues to be affected by dry soil conditions. Farmers are taking advantage of the lack of rain to complete fall tillage operations. Poultry operations are welcoming the cooler temperatures. Soil moisture was rated 34 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 25 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	99	97	97	97	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	95	92	92	98	1	4	18	51	26
	Harvested	44	21	41	43					
Rice	Mature	100	98	100	98	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	94	86	82	80					
Sorghum	Harvested	100	99	99	98	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	100	100	97	97	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	99	97	90	90					
	Harvested	91	84	73	61					
Wheat	Planted	4	--	31	15					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	92	90	99	96	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	50	30	59	55	1	8	39	42	10
Cattle						4	9	21	53	13
Pasture						12	22	38	26	2

County Agent Comments

"Pastures are burning up. If we don't get a rain soon, some cattlemen will have to start feeding hay. Early maturing varieties of cotton are showing excellent yields. Excellent weather conditions since defoliation have caused big, fluffy bolls which has producers smiling. Cotton harvest will be in full swing by next week."

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

"Producers are harvesting cotton, soybeans and corn. The weather has been great for applying harvest aids to cotton. Yields are above average in most areas of the county."

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

"Clear weather has hastened harvesting; however, several fields need 1-2 more rain showers to finish crop progress for sweet potatoes and soybeans. Cotton yields are better than area growers were expecting."

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

"Lack of adequate soil moisture has halted all planting of winter grazing."

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

"Dry weather continues to cause serious concerns as farmers plant winter forages with hopes of rain arriving soon."

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Soil moisture is starting to become a problem in pastures. Our last rains were during Hurricane Ivan. The lack of rain is good for farmers who can salvage crops after Ivan.”

— Walter E. Walker, Jackson

“Rain is the most desperately needed commodity in this county. Pastures, livestock and fall crops are suffering from the lack of rainfall.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Dry conditions have allowed growers to harvest most of our crops. Cotton yields have been outstanding. Soybeans that are being harvested now are yielding much better than those that were harvested two weeks ago. If we get to harvest this week, there will not be many soybeans left in the field.”

— Don Respess, Bolivar

“The cotton pickers are rolling! The yields look good, but we do have a lot of late, half-drowned cotton that will pull yields down later.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Dry conditions across the area allowed harvesting of all crops to continue. Fall field preparations continue as crops are harvested.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“We had another beautiful week for harvesting and fall tillage, but the dust is starting to get deep.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“All corn harvest is complete, there are very few soybeans left to harvest, and cotton is disappearing rapidly.”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“Harvest will be over in Sunflower County within 10 days. This will probably be the earliest end to harvest in recent years. Yields are reported to be very good.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“The dry weather is allowing for good progress with crop harvesting; however, it is delaying the planting and emergence of cool season grazing and grain crops.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Row crop farmers are enjoying this drought for harvesting purposes, but cattlemen need rain. Today is the 34th day without a trace of rain, and hay fields, pastures, fall gardens and yards are just about to burn up!”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“We had a great week of harvesting for soybeans and cotton. Our soybean yields continue to be above normal and at record levels. Cotton yields are getting better with each harvest day. Cotton loss from Ivan in Noxubee will average around 225 lbs/acre.”

— Dr. Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Dry weather prevailed throughout the week allowing crops to continue maturing at a rapid rate. Pastures are dry and hay harvest is almost complete.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Soil is very dry.”

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Still waiting for a good, deep-soaking rain to replenish soil moisture.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“We are very dry, and not much ryegrass has been planted due to a lack of moisture. Cotton looks good and bolls are opening. Peanuts are being harvested, and this operation seems to be going well. Cattlemen are enjoying higher prices.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Dry conditions persist. Timberlands are in major fire danger.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“We need rain! Drought conditions present in our county! Cooler, dry weather is excellent for poultry operations. Winter pastures are at critical stages and need rain soon.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“It is very dry. We are in a critical fire hazard. Summer pastures have faded from good to poor. The planting of winter grazing is at a stand-still until we get a good chance of rain.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“A light rain this week is perfect timing for producers to plant ryegrass. Many of them have been waiting for some rain in order to plant. With upcoming temperatures being cooler, it will be a great time to plant.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“Producers are taking advantage of dry weather to harvest cotton and soybeans. Corn harvest is complete. Yields are somewhat disappointing. Producers are also using the agreeable weather to complete fall tillage operations. Winter grazing, both prepared seedbed and no-till, is being put in. Rain is needed in most areas of the county although those harvesting cotton, beans and late hay crops would like to see a few more days of dry weather.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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Weather Summary from September 27, 2004 to October 3, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				69		0.00	-0.66	0	0.00				
Cleveland	89	49	69	70	-1	0.00	-0.53	0	0.04				
Tunica	84	48	67	69	-2	0.00	-0.63	0	0.52				0.21
Extreme/Average	89	48	68	69	-1	0.00	-0.68	0	0.19				0.21
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	87	42	64	67	-3	0.00	-0.80	0	0.56				
Calhoun City	84	46	66	68	-2	0.00	-0.72	0	0.63				
Independence	85	42	63	67	-4	0.00	-0.72	0	0.00				
Oxford				67		0.00	-0.84	0	0.20				
Extreme/Average	87	42	65	68	-3	0.00	-0.78	0	0.35				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	84	50	67	67	0	0.00	-0.78	0	1.15				
Iuka				65		0.00	-0.85	0	4.90				
Ripley	83	44	64	66	-2	0.00	-0.80	0	0.64				
Tupelo	84	51	69			0.00		0	1.80				
Verona	85	49	69	69	0	0.00	-0.81	0	3.14				0.19
Extreme/Average	85	44	67	68	-1	0.00	-0.82	0	2.33				0.19
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	89	56	71	71	0	0.28	-0.48	1	0.28				
Rolling Fork	90	53	71	71	0	0.00	-0.77	0	0.00	93	73	82	
Stoneville	89	52	71	70	+1	0.00	-0.74	0	0.00	88	69	78	
Yazoo City	87	51	70	71	-1	0.00	-0.76	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	90	51	71	71	0	0.07	-0.70	0	0.07	93	69	80	
5. Central													
Canton	88	50	70	70	0	0.00	-0.70	0	0.01				
Carthage	86	51	70	70	0	0.00	-0.73	0	0.02				
Lexington	87	48	68	69	-1	0.01	-0.69	1	0.01				
Eupora				68		0.00	-0.86	0	0.78				
Extreme/Average	88	48	69	69	0	0.00	-0.77	0	0.21				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	85	49	69	68	+1	0.44	-0.41	1	2.47				
Houston	85	42	66	67	-1	0.00	-0.81	0	1.06				
Louisville				69		0.00	-0.82	0	2.15				
State University	87	49	69	69	0	0.00	-0.77	0	4.79	77	71	74	0.17
Extreme/Average	87	42	68	69	-1	0.11	-0.67	0	2.62	77	71	74	0.17
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	89	57	73	72	+1	0.00	-0.91	0	0.00	90	74	83	
Natchez	86	39	70	72	-2	0.00	-0.84	0	0.38				
Oakley	89	51	72	70	+2	0.00	-0.64	0	0.00	91	78	83	
Vicksburg						0.00		0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	89	39	72	71	+1	0.00	-0.82	0	0.10	91	74	83	
8. South-Central													
Collins	89	59	74	71	+3	0.00	-0.88	0	0.38				
Columbia	89	60	75	72	+3	0.00	-0.84	0	0.26				
Tylertown	90	59	75	73	+2	0.00	-0.87	0	1.37				
Extreme/Average	90	59	75	71	+4	0.00	-0.83	0	0.67				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	91	57	75			0.00		0	1.75				
Hattiesburg	90	61	76	72	+4	0.00	-0.84	0	1.57				
Laurel	88	57	74	71	+3	0.00	-0.84	0	0.92				
Newton	86	49	69	69	0	0.00	-0.77	0	1.66	79	68	74	0.17
Extreme/Average	91	49	73	71	+2	0.00	-0.82	0	1.48	79	68	74	0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				73		0.00	-0.94	0	1.33				
Gulfport	89	65	77	75	+2	0.05	-0.99	1	2.83				
Poplarville	88	60	75	73	+2	0.00	-0.85	0	0.93	89	73	81	0.21
Waveland	90	66	77	73	+4	0.00	-1.04	0	2.72				
Extreme/Average	90	60	76	73	+3	0.02	-0.99	0	1.83	89	73	81	0.21
State	91	39	70	70	0	0.02	-0.78	0	0.96	93	68	78	0.19

DFN = Departure from Normal.